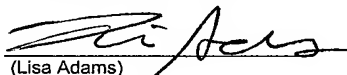


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Dated: February 25, 2008

Signature:

  
(Lisa Adams)

Docket No.: 101896-242 (DEP5294)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Mark C. Boomer et al.

Application No.: 10/709,246

Filed: April 23, 2004

For: SPINAL IMPLANT CONNECTORS

Confirmation No.: 3245

Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: M. C. Hoffman

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE FILED WITH  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

Dear Examiner:

Applicant submits this paper along with a Request for Continued Examination in response to the Office Action dated November 23, 2007 and the Advisory Action dated February 5, 2008.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.